

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-2-03-05

Issued at: Palmer, Tuesday, May 24, 2005

Effective Date: 6:00 a.m., Friday, May 27, 2005

Expiration Date: 11:59 P.M., Wednesday, July 13, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order increases the king salmon limits from one per day and two in possession to two per day and four in possession, and allows sport fishing 24 hours per day in the lower portion of the Deshka River drainage open to king salmon fishing beginning 6:00 a.m., Friday, May 27, through 11:59 p.m., Wednesday, July 13, 2005.

The increase in bag and possession limit applies to the flowing waters of the Deshka River drainage from its mouth upstream to an ADF&G marker located near Chijuk Creek (river mile 17), and all waters within a one-half mile radius of the Deshka River's confluence with the Susitna River.

The increase in hours open to fishing applies only to the flowing waters of the Deshka River drainage from its mouth upstream to an ADF&G marker located 300 ft. downstream of the ADF&G weir (river mile 7).

That part of the Deshka River adjacent to the weir (300 ft. upstream and downstream of the weir located at river mile 7) remains closed to fishing as noted by department regulatory markers. The annual limit and harvest record requirement remains in effect.

REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 61.022. WATERS; SEASONS; BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS; AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR THE SUSITNA – WEST COOK INLET AREA. (d)(6)(B) are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective beginning 6:00 a.m., Friday, May 27, through 11:59 p.m., Wednesday, July 13, 2005:

5AAC 61.022. WATERS; SEASONS; BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS; AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR THE SUSITNA – WEST COOK INLET AREA.

(d)(6) in the Deshka River drainage, including Trapper Lake,

(B) from its mouth upstream to ADF&G regulatory markers near Chijuk Creek (river mile 17), and in all waters within a one-half mile radius of its confluence with the Susitna River, king salmon 20 inches or greater in length may be taken January 1 - July 13; from September 1 – May 14, only unbaited, artificial lures may be used; from May 15 – August 31, bait may be used; the remainder of the drainage is closed from January 1 – December 31 to sport fishing for king salmon; bag limit is two fish per day, and four in possession; sport fishing is open 24-hours per day in the Deshka River drainage from its mouth upstream to ADF&G regulatory markers 300 feet downstream of the weir, and in all waters within a one-half mile radius of its confluence with the Susitna River;

McKie Campbell,

Commissioner

By delegation to:

Dave Rutz,
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

King salmon returns to the Deshka River have been above the biological escapement goal (BEG) range of 13,000 – 28,000 fish for the past six years. A run of 49,600 king salmon to the Deshka River is projected for the 2005 season, thus providing a surplus of king salmon available for harvest. The average Deshka River king salmon sport harvest is approximately 7,000 fish annually. By increasing bag and possession limits and extending fishing hours, an additional 3,000 to 5,000 fish may be harvested. The anticipated escapement from this increased harvest will still be near or over the BEG. Therefore it is warranted to liberalize this sport fishery.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 2 Office of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518, (907) 267-2218.